

St. John Chrysostom Church  
End of Church Street, one block west of  
Genesee Street (opposite St. John's Academy)  
Delafield  
Waukesha County  
Wisconsin

HABS No. WIS-162

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

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## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

## ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM CHURCH

Location: End of Church Street, One Block West of Genesee Street (Opposite St. John's Academy) Delafield, Waukesha County, Wisconsin.

Present Owner: Episcopal Church.

Present Occupant: Episcopal Church.

Brief Statement of Significance: A good example of a small wood board and batten church, attributed to Richard Upjohn, architect.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original owner: The church was built for and has remained the property of the present owner.
2. Date of erection: Begun in 1851, the church was consecrated May 20, 1856.
3. Architect: The church was probably built according to plans by Richard Upjohn, based on a letter of March 11, 1859, in Upjohn's business correspondence (Upjohn, Richard Upjohn, Architect and Churchman, and Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Architecture and "Historic Wisconsin Buildings," Lore, XI, 1.) However, a young clergyman from Philadelphia, R. Ralston Cox, is also credited with furnishing plans for the church (Holt, "The Story of the Church of St. John Chrysostom"). Cox was killed in an accident on the Ohio River, and the church was erected partly as a memorial to him.
4. Builders, suppliers: Alden S. Kelly, carpenter; Jacob Luther, blacksmith for wrought iron hinges on doors.
5. Alterations: The only serious alteration is the building of a small enclosed porch on the front (west) which was done rather recently. In doing this, the original doors were moved forward, but otherwise the western facade remained unchanged.
6. References

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- a. Harris H. Holt, "The Story of the Church of St. John Chrysostom" (a locally published pamphlet, n.d.)
  - b. Richard W. E. Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Architecture (Milwaukee, Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, 1960).
  - c. "Historic Wisconsin Buildings, A Survey of Pioneer Architecture, 1835-1870. III. Frame Buildings," Lore vol. XI, no. 1 (Milwaukee: Friends of the Museum of the Milwaukee Public Museum, Winter, 1960), pp. 2-21.
  - d. Everard M. Upjohn, Richard Upjohn, Architect and Churchman (New York: Columbia University Press, 1939).
7. Old Views: Harris H. Holt, "The Story of the Church of St. John Chrysostom" (a locally published pamphlet, n.d.)
- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: The Reverend William Markoe was rector of the church at the time the building was built. The most distinguished rector of the church (1854-1859) was the Reverend James DeKoven.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: The church is a good small example of wood board and batten Gothic with decorative barge boards.
2. Condition of fabric: Well kept up.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: 26' x 92'.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Wood, board and batten outside, vertical boards inside.
4. Chimneys: one, brick.
5. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: The main door is vertical, V-joint, wood, Gothic type. The side door is similar.

- b. Windows: Narrow Gothic lancets with triple lancets over the high altar. All the windows are filled with leaded glass of good quality.

6. Roof

- a. Shape, covering: Very steep gabled roof, covered with wood shingles.
- b. Framing: Wood Gothic arches exposed on inside.
- c. Eaves: Project slightly with open rafters. Barge boards with pierced Gothic Quatrefoils decorate the gables.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

- 1. Floor plans: The interior is very simple consisting of a single auditorium, and a small chancel separated by a Rood screen.
- 2. Stairways: None.
- 3. Flooring: Wood.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: All interior finish is natural wood.
- 5. Trim: All trim and furnishings on the interior are extremely simple and of finished woodwork.
- 6. Hardware: Beautiful hand-wrought hinges of enfoliated Gothic pattern decorate the doors. These are the work of a local blacksmith, Jacob Luther.
- 7. Lighting: Electricity.

D. Site

- 1. General setting and orientation: The church faces west and occupies an elevated site on a small knoll opposite St. John's Academy. The church is surrounded by a church yard cemetery, and southwest of the church building there is a free standing wooden belfrey which appears to be contemporary with the church. A gravel drive leads up the hill to the church but aside from the fact that the church yard is cared for there is little formal landscaping.